

FOXBORO COMMITTEE FOR DISABLED CITIZENS  
Minutes of October 1, 2009

Present: Fran Bell, Richard Biggieri, Cindy Curran, Marilyn Lucas, Nancy Biggar, Sue Collins, Bill Casbarra  
Guests: Jeffrey Dugan, MOD & Gary Talbot, resident & Assistant General Manager of System-Wide Accessibility for the MBTA

1. Minutes of July 15, 2009 were accepted.
  
2. Sue reported that a letter was sent to the Selectmen about Detectable Warning Strips. Bill and Sue attended a Selectmen's meeting re. the Detectable Warning Strips. Bob Swanson from the Highway Dept. stated that he would contact Rep. Barrows to help Foxboro navigate through the Maintenance Division of the Mass. Highway regulations and hopefully get the Detectable Warning Strips installed properly. Two articles appeared in the Foxboro Reporter.
  
3. Bill sent a letter to Gillette Stadium re. a plan for how many handicapped parking spaces are needed when there are no full events at the Stadium. A design of bags that are placed over the excess handicapped parking signs was also included.
  
4. The Committee is sorry to accept the resignation of Chuck Gallagher. His expertise and enthusiasm will be missed. We now have a vacancy on our Committee.
  
5. Gary Talbot of the MBTA talked to us about the issues of handicapped accessibility at the T Stations and that the MBTA continues to try to improve accessibility. One improvement is that the Visually Impaired can now use a "Charlie Card" for easier access into a T Station.
  
6. Richard brought up the issue of having a handicapped parking space at Liberty and Central Streets. He remembered that previously a petition was signed by many at the Senior Center and he promised to look into what happened to that petition. Many members recollected that the space was never approved due to safety issues at that corner. Discussion ensued about perhaps pursuing another handicapped space on Central Street in addition to

the one near the Common. Everyone agreed to monitor that handicapped space and also check if the person has a placard displayed.

7. Jeffrey Dougan from the Massachusetts Office on Disability spoke to us and offered us some suggestions to strengthen our Committee.

- \*Keep a relationship with the town.

- \*Give help & guidance to Planning Board. Get on the emailing list of the Board of Selectmen & Highway Dept.

- \*Have developers come to our meetings.

- \*Get involved with the renovations at Foxboro High School

- \*Elect a Liaison on Planning Board & Selectmen.

- \*Have a percentage of 4022G fines go to the Commission. Money could go to a scholarship for students with disabilities or construction of ramps for people in need. Encourage police to be aggressive with ticketing violators of handicapped spaces.

- \*MOD has a handicapped parking warning flyer that Committee members could put on cars that violate handicapped parking spaces. This has been a past practice.

- \*Local Independent Living Center (ILC) in Taunton is a MRC resource that knows regulations and could advocate for our needs if MOD is not available.

- \*We could get a list of other Commissions in other towns and perhaps collaborate with them.

8. Gary Talbot stated some concerns:

- \*The Highway Dept. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor is not accessible for individuals who are handicapped to get stickers for Leaf & Brush Composting. It was suggested that the sticker could be obtained at Town Hall.

- \*Walgreen's at Chestnut Green was not easily accessible.

- \*Patriots Place – crosswalks are not clearly marked and the path of travel is sometimes difficult.

Fran & Sue agreed to meet and look at Patriots Place and report back to the Committee.

**Next Meeting: December 9, Wednesday, 3 PM at Town Hall,  
Selectmen's Room.**